MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that the matter is pending in the court.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I would like to express thanks to the Minister for the efforts taken by him. I would like to ask whether the trend of this kind of grey operations is on the increase or on the decrease. This is number one. Secondly, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only number one. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, this is very important. Sir, I am told that this trend of grey operations are on the increase due to the consent and the connivance of the telephone department, particularly, the lower down employees. Is it true, and, if so, what is the action taken, how many of such cases have come to your notice?

डॉ॰ शकील अहमद: सभापति जी, कोई teady growth या decline नहीं है। मैं year-wise आंकड़े बता देता हूं:- In 1998-99, it was 9; 1999-2000, it was 10; in 2000-01, it was 29; in 2001-02 it went up to 56. After that in 2002-03 it came down to 46, then, it came down to 32. In 2004-05, it increased to 94; but, this year, up till now, it is only 40. We are trying our best to check this menace of grey market, and, the Government will take any action and every action to prevent this type of things.

**Upgradation of road Near Gujarat**

*226. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road connecting the Union Territories near Gujarat are not upgraded to National Highways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intends to upgrade the roads and in what time frame?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman near Gujarat are already located near National Highway No. 8 and Diu is located near National Highway No. 8E.

(c) Declaration of roads connecting Union Territories near Gujarat as National Highways are not under consideration.

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that the link roads near National Highways in Gujarat connecting the Union Territories are not being upgraded. He has admitted it. When highways are being upgraded, and, every year, upgradation work is going on, why these roads connecting Union Territories, which are adjacent to Gujarat and Gujarat National Highways, are not being upgraded? What are the reasons thereof? Sir, part (b) of my question was, "if so, the reasons therefor." But, no reasons have been given. What are the reasons for not upgrading these link roads with the National Highways?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there are six stretches leading to National Highways No. 8 and 8 E which are connecting Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu. Out of these six roads,Vapi-Daman is having 40,160 PCUs, Vapi-Silvasa is having 40,160 PCUs and, Bilad-Naroli-Silvasa has got 37,165 PCUs. All other roads are not qualified for upgradation. These three roads have been reviewed yesterday, and, I have already ordered for preparation of DPR. And, after the preparation of DPR, we will fit it in a proper scheme and the appropriate action will be taken.

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Sir, is it a fact that the Government of Gujarat has repeatedly taken up this question of upgrading the link roads of these union territories adjacent to Gujarat, as the National Highways in Gujarat are already upgraded? What is the response of the Government?

SHRI T.R.BAALU: Sir, I have already informed the House about this.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government has drawn up plans for the launch of 3rd phase of the National Highway Development Programme with a total investment of Rs. 50 crores. If it is true, when is it going to be completed?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, even though it does not come under the purview of this question, yes, the National Highways Development Project-III has been envisaged. Around 10,000 kilometers have been taken up. Out of that, the Cabinet has approve 4,000 Kilometers. It is already in process. We have taken up the project.